

knowledge and the breadth of his skills. He has tried approximately 200 cases in State and Federal courts. He has served as a county attorney. He has been in civil and criminal litigation. He has tried cases in personal injury, in criminal defense, and environmental law. He has represented defendants in criminal cases. He has represented numerous indigent clients in pro bono cases.

And in public service, he has a long and distinguished career and has been named Conservationist of the Year, chaired committees, been elected by the people he served and been Chairman of his political party's activities.

So while Arthur Vanderbilt probably did not have in mind anybody from upper East Tennessee, from the town where former Senator Andrew Johnson, President Andrew Johnson, once lived, he would have been proud of Ronnie Greer just as Senator Frist and I are proud to recommend him. He knows East Tennessee. He knows the law. I have known him since he was a student body president at East Tennessee State University. He is one of the most exceptional citizens we have in our State, and we are fortunate that the President chose to nominate him to be Federal District Judge for the Eastern District of Tennessee.

Thank you.

Senator CHAMBLISS. And he certainly graduated from an outstanding law school.

We have a vote which started about 3 minutes ago, but I would like to see if we can't rush through with our colleagues who are here.

Senator SCHUMER, do you want to go first, or do you want to let them go? Normally, the senior Senator would go first, and I want to let you have as much time as you want.

**PRESENTATION OF RICHARD C. WESLEY, NOMINEE TO BE CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT, BY HON. CHARLES E. SCHUMER, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

Senator SCHUMER. I will be brief.

I just want to welcome my colleagues here—Senator Clinton, of course, and we have a special guest. It is rare that somebody from the House comes by, but Congressman Reynolds was really instrumental in bringing Judge Wesley to the Committee's attention. They have known each other for many years. And I see a third member of the triumvirate, former Congressman Paxon, in the back; they are a great group as well. I also want to thank his family for being here as well, including his mother, who is 86, God bless.

Mr. Chairman, I am in full support of Judge Wesley's nomination. Like most nominees we see, he has a top-flight legal mind and experience. He graduated summa cum laude from SUNY Albany and Cornell Law School, worked in private practice for several years, and served in the New York State Assembly a few years after I did, from 1983 to 1987.

Mr. Chairman, this is not a nominee who comes before us where it is well, maybe someone wants him, so we should make him a judge. He is so well-qualified; he has made an excellent judge in New York State, and he will just be a superb judge here.

I have always had three criteria in the judges that I have nominated—excellence, legally excellent; moderation—I do not like judges to be too far right or too far left; and diversity. Judge Wesley is good on two of the three. But our previous two nominees, to the President's credit, the previous two nominees to the Second Circuit are Judge Parker, an African American, and Judge Raggi, a woman, so in a sense you are the diverse candidate today, Judge Wesley, and you meet all three criteria.

I just want to make one point, and I will ask that my whole statement be read in the record, because I know that Senator Clinton and Congressman Reynolds want to say something before we have to break for the vote.

I think that what has happened in New York is a model for how we can all get along. The nominees have been excellent nominees. Most of them probably philosophically do not disagree with Senator Clinton and me on every issue, but they are all in the mainstream.

I thought I would just read you Judge Wesley's own judicial philosophy, which he wrote: "I consider myself a conservative in nature, pragmatic at the same time, with a fair appreciation of judicial restraint. I have always restricted myself to what I understand to be the plain language of the statute and not gone beyond that, because public policy is made by the legislature."

To that, I say amen. We look forward to hearing from you, Judge. We welcome your family here. I believe you will be a great judge on the Second Circuit, the long-distinguished Second Circuit, of the United States

I would just ask unanimous consent that my entire statement be read into the record.

Senator CHAMBLISS. Certainly; without objection.

Senator Clinton?

**PRESENTATION OF RICHARD C. WESLEY, NOMINEE TO BE CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT, BY HON. HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK**

Senator CLINTON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I too would like my entire statement in the record.

I want to welcome not only Judge Wesley but also his mother Beatrice and his daughter Sarah and his son Matthew. I had a brief visit with Mrs. Wesley, and it is not any accident that her son is here today, moving toward confirmation for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

Mr. Chairman, it is certainly not a requirement that a candidate for the Federal judiciary has significant public service experience, but many of us in New York are extremely proud of the way that Judge Wesley has not only been a superb jurist but has continued to care about the quality of justice and has used his extraordinary experience to try to improve the lives of the people who appear before him and far beyond that.

He has a distinguished academic record, and for the past 16 years, he has served New York State courts with distinction. As a trial court judge, he instituted a Felony Screening Program that reduced the delay in processing felony cases by over 60 percent. That served as a model for other judicial districts across New York.